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30 October 1960

ITALY

- I. On 25 and 26 October Italian Premier Fanfani and Christian Democratic Party Secretary Moro expressed to Mr. Dulles their high satisfaction with American policy toward Italy. They also reiterated their firm support of NATO.
- II. Both Fanfani and Moro were ~~wholly~~ preoccupied with the municipal elections scheduled for 6 and 7 November.
 - A. They were reasonably optimistic that the Christian Democrats would hold their own, but they foresaw much jockeying for position in forming the new municipal governments.
 - B. If elections go well, the present quadripartite government could have a reasonably long life and there would be time to put through various legislative programs and take further action against the Communists. If elections go badly, a government crisis might follow, with a return to the instability of the recent past.
 - C. For the first time in Italy, the campaign has been televised, and neither Communist leader Togliatti nor Socialist chief Nenni has done well on TV.
- III. The two Christian Democratic leaders do not expect any early dramatic move concerning Nenni.
 - A. They see a possibility that in some cities, such as Milan and Florence, Christian Democrats and the Saragat Socialists may make a deal with Nenni to keep the Communists out of the local government.

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IV. Neither Christian Democratic leader saw any early likelihood of greatly reducing Communist strength.

A. They do expect to continue harassing the Communists and to weed them out of government positions.

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